

Designer Toilet Tissue Storage Holder

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention claims the benefit of the filing date of United States provisional application, 60/461,291, filed on April 4, 2003.

This invention relates to the field of toilet tissue roll holders to store extra rolls of toilet tissue. Typically a toilet tissue dispenser is made to hold one roll of toilet tissue at a time and once that roll is used up, it must be replaced. It is with frequency that a person is left in an embarrassing situation when the roll of toilet tissue has been used up and there are no means of finding a replacement roll of toilet tissue without the aid of a person outside the bathroom. There is a well-known need for a holder that provides both advantageous and attractive means of storing toilet tissue while offering design flexibility as described below in Summary of The Invention.

Prior art toilet tissue roll holders are either made of wood, ceramic or metal. The styles and designs possible with these materials are limited and it is desirable to have a holder that is made of materials such as fabric, leather or other flexible material which offer more possibilities. This is feasible provided the surface coverings can be removed for replacement or cleaning purposes. The present invention addresses this need.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to provide a toilet tissue roll holder that can be located in a bathroom to provide easy access to extra toilet tissue rolls. This invention meets the need to be decorative and functional. As we demand design coordination in the home, this invention is highly desirable.

The toilet tissue roll holder according to the present invention differs from the prior art by providing removable, reuseable and replaceable surface coverings. An elongated hollow rigid tube which forms an inner structure of cross-sectional size and shape suitable for storing toilet tissue rolls is covered on the outside with a decorative sleeve that can be made of any flexible material such as leather or fabric. The decorative sleeve can be interchanged or replaced with different designs. The sleeve provides the option of changing the design, style or colour of the holder without having to purchase a new holder. Optionally the holder can be lined on the inside with a lining made of flexible material. The sleeve and lining can both be removed for cleaning or replacement.

A cover removably attached to the sleeve covers the open end of the holder. The cover is fixed to the sleeve by fasteners designed to engage with mating components fixed to the sleeve. An integral handle facilitates opening and closing of the cover.

The cover can be disassembled for ease of cleaning or replacement of the covering material. The cover is optionally provided with an inspection window through which the user can inspect the contents of the holder.

A pocket attached to the sleeve conveniently stores air freshener or natural herbs to neutralize odours.

For use as a freestanding holder, this invention provides feet attached to the bottom of the sleeve to prevent direct contact with the floor.

For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,098,469 issued to McCarthy on July 4, 1978 discloses a toilet tissue roll holder; U.S. Patent No. 4,192,561 issued to Gunn on March 11, 1980 discloses a storage container for roll tissue paper; U.S. Patent No. D372,823 issued to Kerschreiter on August 20, 1996 discloses a three-roll decorative toilet tissue holder; U.S. Patent No. 5,570,938 issued to Butler on November 5, 1996 discloses a toilet tissue roll holder; U.S. Patent No. 4,314,679 issued to Paul, et al. on February 9, 1982 discloses a roll holder and dispenser; U.S. Patent No. 4,273,392 issued to Stinson on June 16, 1981 discloses a tissue roll holder; U.S. Patent No. 5,887,818 issued to Kelly discloses a device for storing multiple rolls of tissue and dispensing therefrom; U.S. Patent No. 4,607,809 issued to Sineni on August 26, 1986 discloses a toilet tissue holder and dispenser; U.S. Patent No. 4,765,475 issued to Kaysserian on August 23, 1988 discloses a holder and dispenser for multiple rolls of tissue.

While the holders in the prior art fulfill their respective, requirements and specific objectives, the holders do not describe the following:

- a) removable sleeve which provides means of interchanging, replacement or removal of parts for cleaning purposes;
- b) a removable lining;
- c) a removable cover which can be disassembled for interchanging, replacement or removal of parts for cleaning ;
- d) a window in the cover for inspection purposes;
- e) pocket in the rear to house air freshener;
- f) feet at the bottom of the holder to prevent direct contact with the floor.

There are numerous styles, types of combinations skin, leather, textile and embellishment that can be used to give each holder a unique look.

While the invention has been described in connection with a preferred embodiment, it is not intended to limit the scope of the invention to the particular form set forth, but on the contrary, it is intended to cover such alternatives, modifications, and equivalents as may be included within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of the open holder with removably fixed cover.

Fig. 2 shows a perspective view of the disassembled cover showing the removable jacket and parts.

Fig. 3 shows a perspective view of the fully assembled holder with toilet tissue therein.

Fig. 4 shows a perspective view of the rear of the holder.

Fig. 5 shows perspective front views of two of the numerous tailored designs of the removable sleeve.

REFERENCE NUMERALS IN DRAWINGS

inner structure 10
inspection window 12
cover 11
integral handle 13
fastening means 14
pocket 15
removable sleeve 16
feet 17
circular base 18
ring 19
disk 20
removable jacket 21
downward side extension 22
hinge 23
press and snap fastener 24
toilet tissue 25

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Fig 1 shows the perspective view of the open toilet tissue holder. A toilet tissue storage holder for storing multiple rolls of toilet tissue 25. An elongated hollow tube which forms the inner structure 10 whose circular cross-sectional shape and size having sufficient dimensions to accommodate large rolls of toilet tissue 25 but leaving extra room for the user to easily grip and remove rolls. A circular base 18 is secured to the closed end of the inner structure 10 whereby leaving the distal end open to receive rolls of toilet tissue 25. Lining covers the surfaces of the inner structure 10.

The removable sleeve 16 with reusable fastening means 14 has a circular cross-sectional shape and size to house the inner structure 10. The removable sleeve 16 has a single opening directed towards the distal open end of the inner structure 10. The removable sleeve 16 is extended to fold over the edge of the inner structure 10 at the open end and covers part of the inner surface of the inner structure 10 and is connected by fastening means 14 that is located inside the inner structure 10. The part of the removable sleeve 16 which covers the closed end of the inner structure 10 forms a flat surface that is normal to the long axis of said inner structure 10 allowing the toilet tissue holder to stand on the ground in a stable upright position.

Feet 17 are attached to the bottom end of the removable sleeve 16 enabling the toilet tissue holder to stand on the ground in a stable upright position and being of sufficient length to prevent the removable sleeve 16 from touching the floor.

The fully assembled cover 11 is removably fixed to the removable sleeve 16 of the toilet tissue holder by means of hinge 23, as shown in Fig 2, having at least one press and snap fastener 24 designed to engage with mating components fixed to the removable sleeve 16 in order to allow for easy removal or replacement of the cover 11.

An inspection window 12, located centrally, on the top of the cover 11.

The cover 11 has an integral handle 13, a piece of desired material extending upwardly from the top front edge of the cover 11 to facilitate ease of gripping for the purposes of selectively opening and closing the holder.

The pocket 15 at the rear of the removable sleeve 16 stores air freshening material.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the disassembled cover 11. The removable jacket 21 has a downward side extension 22 with fastening means and said downward side extension 22 is extended sufficiently to fold under inwardly to fully enclose and integrate the disk member 20 and the ring member 19 .

Means of affixing and removing the cover from the removable sleeve 16 consists of a hinge 23 fixed at one end to said removable jacket 21 and having at least one press and snap fastener 24 designed to engage with mating components fixed to said removable sleeve 16.

Fig. 3 is a perspective front view of two of the endless designs possible with the removable sleeve 16.